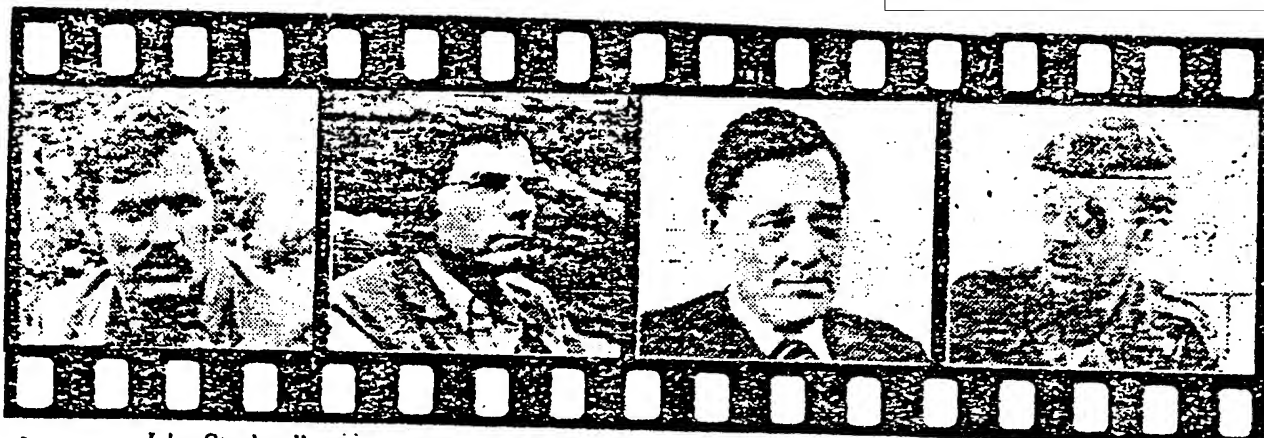


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John Stockwell

Philip Agee

David Atlee Phillips

David Bufkin

Taking Care of Business

By Carla Hall

"If you wanted to invite 12 people to spend the rest of your life with you on a desert island, I wouldn't suggest you invite spies," muses David Atlee Phillips, former Western Hemisphere division chief for the CIA, in the film documentary "On Company Business." He shrugs and smiles. "But *someone* has to do intelligence work."

After you see the chilling "On Company Business," which opens a one-week run today at the West End Circle, you may be reluctant to invite a spy to dinner, let alone to your desert island.

Poison comes up a lot in this film. For instance, says former CIA man John Stockwell, when the CIA considered poisoning Patrice Lumumba of the Congo, the agency wanted to do it indirectly. "You can't invite him to a cocktail party and give him a drink and have him die a few hours later," says Stockwell. Even-

Travelogue of Torture: A Chilling Film Portrait of the CIA

tually, Stockwell contends, a CIA station chief talked to Joseph Mobutu's people, who had Lumumba killed.

CIA watchers will say that director Allan Francovich doesn't reveal anything that hasn't already been

Movies

chronicled—partially in the books written by the former agents interviewed in the film. But whether or not you have diligently kept up with congressional hearings and newspaper and book accounts of the last 30 years, the film presents an appalling picture.

Throughout the film, former agents nonchalantly discuss the CIA's attempts to assassinate Fidel

Castro, their alleged attempts to prevent Marxist Chilean President Salvador Allende from being inaugurated and then, once he was in power, their attempts to get him out.

When the CIA wanted to effect political change in a country, according to the documentary, it bribed the country's government officials, paid workers to strike, fed newspaper columnists and reporters stories, and even set up political parties.

In addition, the film alleges that the CIA sometimes supplied torture equipment—and lessons on how best to use it—to whatever side it was supporting. The portrait of former Indiana policeman Dan Mitrione, who became an Agency for International Development adviser to police forces in Brazil and Uruguay, resembles the image of Latin American military torturers drawn by human rights organizations. Mitrione, who was killed in Uruguay by Tupamaro

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